

Evening Telegraph

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1871.

FICKEN'S PARDON.

JOHN W. GEARY, the individual who, unfortunately for the good name of this Commonwealth, figures as its Governor, has, by granting a pardon to Richard Ficken and a remission of the forfeiture of his bail disgraced himself forever as a man and as an officer of justice. Ficken's crime was one of the most outrageous that he could have committed, and that he is not a murderer is due to his good fortune and not to his intentions. A conviction in open court, and a sentence to the penitentiary, even if an executive pardon had immediately granted his release, were the least that outraged justice had a right to demand; but now it can be said with truth that so long as a criminal is wealthy he can purchase immunity for his offenses, no matter how outrageous they may be, at least while John W. Geary disgraces the executive chair of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This transaction should be the last nail in the political coffin, not only of Geary, but of all his aids and abettors—Attorney-General F. Carroll Brewster, William B. Mann, and Lewis C. Cassidy. Attorney-General Brewster's opinion on the application for pardon is certainly a remarkable performance from one who has himself sat upon the bench, from one who fills the position of the first law officer of the Commonwealth, and who has hitherto borne a fair reputation both as a lawyer and as a man. He concludes from the evidence presented to him that, although Ficken was guilty of gross negligence—this is a curious way of putting it, certainly—he had no intention of inflicting bodily harm; that he had been heavily punished—we would like to know how—and that the signatures attached to the papers were guarantees of the application. We do not see that, for here are some of the names of the individuals upon whose recommendation the pardon was ostensibly granted:—William B. Elliott, William McCandless, Thomas Ashton, J. T. Pettit, William Moran, and Representatives Lamon, Dumbell, Hagar, Duffy, Cloud, Quigley, Mooney, Albright, Josephs, and McGowan. It will be seen that the Governor and the Attorney-General have arrogated to themselves the functions of judge and jury, while Messrs. William B. Mann and Lewis C. Cassidy, who figure as Ficken's counsel, have not merely fulfilled their duties as legal advisers, but they have busied themselves to defeat the ends of justice by compounding a felony, as they were under no obligation to do, either as lawyers or honest men. Mr. Mann is exceedingly desirous of regaining the office of District Attorney, from which he was driven a few years ago by his disgusted fellow-citizens, but he may rest assured that his connection with the Ficken case has forever sealed his hopes in that direction, as it has those of Mr. Cassidy for any office of trust or honor to which he may aspire. The lawyer who would aid in preventing a great crime from being punished simply because the criminal is wealthy and willing to pay handsomely in order to keep out of the penitentiary, is clearly not the right person to fill the office of public prosecutor of this city and county. Not merely every honest, law-abiding citizen, but every man who is not able to pay for the privilege of committing crime as Ficken has done is clearly interested in preventing William B. Mann from ever again becoming District Attorney. As for Geary, we are happy in the belief that this transaction will finish him politically. There is a point where patience ceases to be a virtue; and much as every decent man in the State must have blushed on account of the vain, weak, and insincere political trickster who figures as the Governor of this State, nothing that he has yet done can equal his granting a pardon to Ficken under the circumstances he did; and this last crowning act of shame ought at least to secure his retirement from public view for the balance of his days. It is understood that it has cost Ficken \$50,000 to procure this pardon, and it would be interesting to know how the money was divided. At present all parties concerned in procuring the pardon are under a just suspicion of having pocketed portions of it. Ficken could well afford to expend such a sum, however, to keep himself out of the penitentiary, but it is an eternal disgrace that our highest offices are filled by men who are willing to lend a ready ear to one who comes with \$50,000 in his hand, when some poor wretch who commits a petty larceny, but who is not able to pay for immunity from punishment, is obliged to satisfy to the uttermost the demands of outraged justice. The mere granting of the pardon, however, is comparatively of secondary importance to the serious fact that the Governor had it in his power to grant it before the trial and conviction of the criminal. That it is both dangerous and injudicious to commit the pardoning power under any circumstances into the hands of one man has been demonstrated most conclusively on many occasions since Geary has been in the executive chair; but that the Governor should have power to grant a pardon to an offender before he has been convicted of crime is simply monstrous. How such a power is liable to abuse in the hands of a weak or corrupt Governor is apparent at a glance, and that it is abused the Ficken case furnishes most conclusive proof. It is possible that good may grow out of this disgraceful affair by leading to what we have repeatedly demanded—a revision of the whole system of granting pardons. That it is not safe or right to entrust this power to the Governor alone, the repeated performances of Geary as a pardon-granter have sufficiently proved, and the Ficken case should influence the Legislature to take prompt action in the matter immediately, so that a reform may be effected that will put an end to or at least a check upon the improper use of the pardoning power.

JIM FISK, OF FISKVILLE.

Why does the Tribune rage, and the Patriot imagine a vain thing? Should the wise man utter vain knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind? Should he reason with unprofitable talk, or with speeches wherewith he can do no good? It is manifestly absurd, and not less useless than ridiculous, for the Tribune to ignore the existence and importance of Jim Fisk. Jim Fisk is; and, if he were not, New York would cease to be the metropolis that it is—in fact, would cease to be Fiskville. When the Tribune denounces the Herald as a "blatherskite," because the Herald interviews Jim Fisk's Josie that was, the Tribune forgets that it is printed in Fiskville, and primarily for the edification of Fiskville readers. If Josie Mansfield is "tall, and shaped like a duchess," why should it not be proclaimed in the streets of Fiskville? Jim Fisk was lovely in the eyes of Josie, and Fiskville yearns for all of the sweet details as to how Stokes supplanted him in the gum-shoes, and drove him from the brown-stone rambos on West Twenty-third street. If a half dozen interviewers come to idiotic grief before the Fiskville public is sated, it matters but little. A newspaper man may as well die of idiocy as of any other ailment, especially if he chooses Fiskville for the scene, and Jim Fisk for the subject-matter of his interviewings. The skin of Josie Mansfield is "as fair in fibre and hue as the lily itself." It is not a matter of surprise, therefore, that her hand is "white and smooth." Her ears are "small" and "seashell-like." And her eyes—well, her eyes are peculiar—that is to say, "of a peculiar grey, and lambent like the phosphorescent streaks of light that follow the wake of a ship in mid-ocean." Good for her eyes, we say; and good for the lambent streaks of the phosphorescent ship that follows the peculiar wake of her eyes in grey mid-ocean. Jim Fisk was wont to gaze in those small, seashell-like tympanum cases, and it is meet and proper that Fiskville should have a fair show to sigh and gaze likewise. Jim Fisk was accustomed to press that "white and smooth" hand in his, and the leering, idiotic creature who interviewed its owner should not be stigmatized as a loon, because he took that proffered bit of dainty flesh in his horny palm, preliminary to noting down the points of the interview. Wasn't he sent there for that very purpose? And didn't all Fiskville buy Wednesday's Herald, because he went whether he was sent, and did what his instigators expected him to do? It is all "blatherskite," to be sure; but New York is Fiskville, and Fiskville listens contentedly to "blatherskite" while she gloats on Jim Fisk, as the turtle-dove listens to the liquid ditty of the golden wedding bells while she gloats on the Fiskville moon. It was at the dinner given by Jim Fisk to Montalant, the bouffiste—"a coarse person, in her way," according to the insinuation of the idiotic creature of the Herald, but "a very nice and pretty" one, according to Josie Mansfield's plump assertion—that Jim Fisk told Montalant he could have New York called Fiskville, if he so desired. Josie was there and heard him, and says it "was like him all over." There is nothing "suburban" about this man Fisk, and there is nothing "suburban" about the town of Fiskville. In Fiskville he flourishes as he would not flourish in our "suburban" village. Stokes discomfited him, it is true, and stepped into the gum-shoes and the favor of Josie. But then Stokes himself is of Fiskville, Fisky—which we are not, being still somewhat "suburban."

NOTICES.

ECONOMY should be practiced by everybody in all things. One dollar expended now in purchasing a bottle of Jayne's Expectant, by those troubled with a slight Cough or Hoarseness, or Sore Throat, may save the expense of a doctor's bill. A neglected Cough often ends in Consumption. A slight inflammation of the lining of the wind tubes, the usual symptoms of which are a Sore Throat and a Pain in the Breast, will soon lead, through want of attention, to Bronchitis. A day's delay may entail months of suffering. Let the afflicted try at once Jayne's Expectant. It is a standard remedy, and its curative properties have been tested by thousands of persons who have recovered their health by its use. Sold by all Druggists.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

ST. CLEMENT'S CHURCH, TWENTY-SEVENTH and CHESTNUT Streets.—Choral service and sermon to-morrow evening at 7 1/2 o'clock. Seats free. 121 2d St. ST. MARK'S CHURCH, LOCUST, ABOVE SIXTEENTH Street.—Free (choral) service to-morrow evening at 7 1/2 o'clock. ST. SPIRITUALISM.—THOMAS GALES FORTSTER will lecture at the Church ELEVENTH and WOOD, Sunday, at 10 A. M., on "Revelation," 7 1/2 P. M., on "Inspiration." Public invited. Free. SIXTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SPENCER Street, below Sixth.—Rev. J. P. DONKEY, Pastor, will preach to-morrow at 10 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M. 121 2d St. BETH-EDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, BROAD and SPENCER Streets.—Rev. J. WHEATON SMITH, D. D., Pastor, will preach Sunday morning and evening. ST. THOMAS BAPTIST CHURCH, THIRTY-THIRD Street, above Washington.—Rev. L. P. HORNBERGER, Pastor. Preaching to-morrow at 10 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M. Sunday-school at 9 P. M. DIVINE SERVICE (PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL) will be held in the hall of the QUINCY LAND SAUNDERS COLLEGE, THIRTY-NINTH Street, above Market, on Sunday, January 23, at 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Sunday-school at 9 P. M. CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EIGHTH and CHESTNUT Streets, Rev. A. REED, D. D., Pastor.—Services to-morrow (Sabbath) morning at 10 o'clock, and in the evening at 7 1/2 o'clock. SERMON TO THE YOUNG MEN, UNDER THE auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association. Rev. T. A. FERNLEY will preach a sermon especially to young men, in the ELEVENTH STREET M. E. CHURCH, ELEVENTH Street, above Washington avenue, to-morrow (Sabbath) evening, at 7 1/2 o'clock. Medical students and strangers in the city are cordially invited. 79 2d St.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, JEFFERSON and SIXTEENTH Streets.—Rev. E. W. CONRAD, D. D., Pastor; Rev. T. STORK, D. D., Associate Pastor. Sabbath services at 10 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M. Seats free. All are welcome. ARCH STREET M. E. CHURCH, S. E. CORNER ARCH and BROAD Streets.—Preaching Sunday at 10 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M., by Rev. O. H. PAYNE, D. D. Evening subject—"Moses, the Young Man of the Noble Choice." Young men particularly invited. THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WASHINGTON Square.—Rev. HERRICK JOHNSON, D. D., Pastor, will preach to-morrow at 10 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M. The morning sermon will be with reference to the LIFE AND DEATH OF REV. ALBERT BARNES. The evening sermon—"A Time to Die." All are welcome. CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LOCUST Street, above Fifteenth.—Services at 10 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M. The Pastor, Rev. Dr. HUMPHREY, will preach to-morrow the first of a series of evening sermons upon "The Scriptural Development of Christianity." Subject, "The Historical Thread." REV. A. A. WILLITS, D. D., WILL PREACH in the WEST ARCH STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, corner EIGHTH and ARCH Streets, to-morrow at 10 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M. Evening sermon—the fourth of a series of interesting incidents in the ministry of Christ—"Christ Halting the Widow's Son." TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH, CHESTNUT Street, west of Eighth.—Rev. J. M. L. CURRY, LL. D., of Richmond, Va., will preach to-morrow (Sabbath) evening before the Young People's Association of the Church. Music by the Young People's Choir. The attendance of young persons cordially invited. Service at 7 1/2 o'clock. "CHARACTER AND LIFE IN THE SPIRIT World."—Rev. HENRY C. MCCOOK will preach on the above subject to-morrow at 8 P. M. in FIFTEENTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BROAD Street and PENN SQUARE. Usual service at 10 A. M. REV. PHILIP SHAFF, D. D., THE Eminent Theologian and late American Envoy of the Evangelical Alliance to European Churches, will deliver the fourth in the series of Lectures now being given at CONCERT HALL, TUESDAY EVENING, Jan. 24, at eight o'clock. Rev. WILLIAM HAGUE, D. D., will deliver the fifth on THURSDAY EVENING, Jan. 26. Reserved seats may be secured at Gould & Fischer's Piano Rooms, No. 923 Chestnut street, without extra charge.

CLOTHING.

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